



SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for December 2025

SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life. Visit our [Branch Webpage](#), or [State Webpage](#):

Windsor Branch 176

Monthly Luncheon Meeting Every 3rd Wednesday
Jimmy’s Lakeside Café 130 19th Hole Dr. Windsor CA
Lunch is \$30.00

Windsor Winds Edition

December 2025
Volume 30 Number 12

Big SIR – Tom Palmer



First of all I want to wish all of you who celebrate Christmas, a very merry Christmas and everyone, Happy Holidays. I hope your Thanksgiving day was special. This is my last input as “Big Sir” and so I want to use this podium as a platform to say “Thank you”. I’ve absolutely enjoyed this year and my time in this position. When I attend state meetings I hear about other branches where the Big Sir job is quite difficult. This one is not. The reason it isn’t difficult is because there are so many folks out there who are willing to lend an ear or a hand. Our board, along with certain others really do work as a team, making the lifting much easier. There are the up-front heavy weights like our secretary Dave Harrison or treasurer Garry Trojanowski. Then there are the guys behind the scenes who have been so absolutely helpful

like Jim Tubb working to make our webpage one of the best in all of SIRs. Larry Doherty is ever present keeping our membership records and offering sage advice; he and Joy completely oversaw the picnic this year, and I didn't do a thing. Jerry Culver has historically been a driving force and is always willing to share experiences and was very instrumental in the decision to start us volunteering at the foodbank. He also stepped in to organize the golf tee times when, without notice, he was needed (and thanks to Paul Hanson for recently taking that over). Chris Roach devised a system so that visitors don't feel left out during a luncheon and by setting up a rideshare program. He also helped me by taking over the finding of volunteers to share their "profile" for the newsletter (thanks Gary Good for recently taking that over from Chris). Wayne Lindahl also stepped up to relieve some of my pressure by publishing the weekly calendar reminders, not to mention he immediately volunteered to lead when I suggested that we should have an activities committee. I had two people who were willing to organize the Holiday party, Tom Hasco (our song leader) and Frank Treanor (our joke master) who volunteered first (I didn't even have to ask). With the change in restaurant ownership, it has been an adventure for Frank. Bob Wallace wanted to help and took over our newest and very popular game/pool time. Then there are the two guys, Gary Jensen and John Fineren, who are always making people smile and feel welcome, especially during the popular coffee hour (where a few others always assist). Additionally, the very important couples dinner was at risk when illness struck and Jim Vick, even though he was uncomfortable with some of the emailing requirements, stepped up and has done a remarkable job. Finally, my right hand man, Steve DLM was involved with every decision made and is a calm voice of reason.

So yes, because of all of you mentioned and certainly some who weren't (like Nordy who helps with the luncheon badges and volunteered to be a voting board member when needed) the Big Sir job in Branch 176 was not difficult.

Looking forward to next year, I ask others to step in. Please see how you can help and do what the two Nelsons did; Mark came up with the Christmas tree idea, brought it to the attention of the board and volunteered to coordinate; and John came to our first foodbank center work day with his

camera and volunteered to be our unofficial photographer and continues taking great photos. Many hands make things so much easier for all of us, so if you can, (like the guys mentioned herein) please consider being an active volunteer. There are still open opportunities. If you need ideas on how you can help, your next Big Sir, Steve, DLM, will be happy to assist you. Again, thank you **all!**

Little SIR – Steve De La Montanya



Hello Windsor SIR Members. Welcome to the holiday rush, hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving.

It looks like Jimmy is settling in at the Lake and the food and service seem to be improving.

In case you missed it, we were served a fixed menu item of Chicken Piccata with sides.

I have received almost all positive feedback regarding the November lunch. We have been advised that the venue would like to move to a floating and varied menu with open discussions regarding the monthly menu selection. Please keep in mind the luncheon is about more than just the meal.

It is a get-together for the membership. This requires substantial accommodation and support from the venue. In this regard Charlies and now the management at Jimmy's has worked hard to support us.

I especially want to extend a hearty THANK YOU to the members of the 2025 executive board for the hard work and dedication to the SIR 176 organization.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the SIR hosted and sponsored group events in the coming months.

See you at the Holiday Luncheon (Christmas Party).

DRIVERS & RIDERS

THE 3 FOLKS WHO YOU CAN CALL DIRECT IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO THE LUNCHEONS ARE:

Bob Wallace Windsor 707-849-2345

Jon Babich Windsor 707-608-9449 ???

Chris Riggins Santa Rosa 925-354-3593 ???

STEWART ALSO HAS HIS PHONE NUMBER LISTED IN THE BOCCE BALL NOTICES IF YOU WISH A RIDE FOR BOCCE BALL.

Stewart Morgan Windsor 707-545-4957 stwrmtmorgan@gmail.com

If you have any questions please let our friendship director, Chris Roach, know.
chrisroach@sbcglobal.net

Chris Roach – Friendship Report



Get Well cards were sent to Don McCorkendale, Corrine Peoples & John Hackenberg. Happy Thanksgiving. Be safe!

MEMBERSHIP –LARRY D.



What a good year we had getting the word out about what a great branch we have here in Windsor!!! We began the year with 80 members however we lost 8 (for a variety of reasons) at the beginning of the year putting us at 72. During the year we added a great group of new members, so much so, that we now have 95 members.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to give a shout out to Tom Palmer for his great job as Big Sir and a special thank you to Dave Harrison for all that you have done for our branch over the course of several years (decades). Thank you to both of you.

Just for your information, Virgil Sevieri's wife Jackie passed away so Virgil moved to Lake County to be closer to his daughter. So, it is unlikely we will see (or is that hear) Virgil at our luncheons in the future. Virgil was indeed a character who enjoyed our luncheons

I hope to see you all at the Christmas Party.

**NO LUNCHEON AND NO LUNCHEON SPEAKER IN DECEMBER
PLEASE ENJOY THE HOLIDAY PARTY ON 12/17.**

We have 55 signed up right now so please use the flyer and get your choices and check to Frank by December 8th, **or** if you need to hand it to someone, bring the form and check to coffee on December 2nd at the Senior Center and hand it to Garry who will get it to Frank.

HOLIDAY PARTY NEWS:

The Holiday Party will be held on December 17 at 1200 hours at what used to be Charlie's, now "Jimmy's lakeside café". The menu includes choices of New York Steak, or Salmon Piccata or Chicken Marsala with sides of broccolini carrots and mashed potatoes. Prior to that there will be a salad drop. Also there will be free wine, live entertainment by Mr. Music, and of course Chris Roach will bake a wonderful sheet cake.

The following Holiday Party flyer is how you will let Frank know if you are coming (please attend, you will enjoy it), your menu choice and how to pay. I will send this flyer in a separate email so you can easily print and send it to Frank. You may also give the check and form in person to Garry, probably best at Coffee, or Happy Hour. **HOWEVER, IT MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRANK OR GARRY BY 12/8.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS DECEMBER TO:

Howard Blethen; Jim Branscombe; John Crooker, John Handcock; Steve Monroe; Peter Vigil; Dick Wright

SIRS Holiday Party

Please join us for the
SIRS Holiday Celebration
Where: Jimmie's at Windsor GC
When: December 17 at 12 Noon
Cost: \$65.00 per person, includes wine
Please use the form below to RSVP and
prepay for the event by Dec. 8th

Name _____

Entree: Circle one

New York Steak Salmon Piccata

Chicken Marsala

Guest Name _____

Entree: Circle one

New York Steak Salmon Piccata

Chicken Marsala

Send this form and your check payable to
SIRS Branch 176 to
Frank Treanor,
245 Grove Street
Windsor CA 95492



Gary Jensen – Recruitment Coffee (John Fineren & Helpers)

Bringing a guest to coffee for them to get a feel for the group is a simple and great way to recruit and catch up on all the world events. Tuesday Morning 9am coffee session continues to be a popular and a fun time.



Coffee at the senior center

Where else can you get a pastry and unlimited coffee for \$1?

Couples Dinner (Not an official SIR Activity) Couples Dinner- Jim Vick

Due to holidays there are no couple dinners in November or December. We will start the new year with a BANG.

Anyone new or who hasn't been receiving Jim's emails and wants to be on the dinner list please contact him at: jvick1497@gmail.com

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

No new members for November but we should soon have two new guys Richard Pike and Steve Sharon. More to come in the January newsletter.

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER TEAM PROGRESS:



NEXT OPPORTUNITY IS 12/4 @2PM

There were about 12 of us there in November and loaded boxes for seniors. Each month we seem to get one or two new folks who are willing to give it a try. So please join us. To clarify, this is not a “Sir’s Activity”, it’s a foodbank activity in which we assist, therefore, women/friends are absolutely welcome and encouraged to participate.

Continuing on, we will have a group going over once a month on the 1st Thursday of the month from 2-4pm. **The next service opportunity will be on December 6th, if you did not get my email and wish to volunteer, email me immediately.** (note: the first Thursday in January is the 1st and they are closed, so planning ahead, it will be on January 8th).

*Also, if someone is willing to lean in and coordinate getting the monthly list of work folks to the foodbank, I would really appreciate that. It takes about 10 minutes a month but it conflicts with the time I’m trying to finish up the newsletter, so if you’re that someone who can email and has an extra ten minutes...please let me know.

Golf: Paul Hanson & Frank Treanor



Golf continues in spite of the rain, we get 10-12 players each week, if you want to play contact Paul Hansen or Frank. Also, if you would like to play you need to be at the course by 0730. Any questions, I can be reached at bcft11@comcast.net. And Paul can be reached at pablo558389@hotmail.com

SIR Branch 176 Bowling Report

As I write, our thirty-one week Fall to Spring Monday Morning Mixed Seniors Bowling League has now completed eight weeks of competitive bowling with twelve active teams. Sir member teams are in the midst of the action. At the end of the October 20 seventh session “Luigi’s Crew” (my team), led by Sir Lew Commendatore, was in first place having won 20 points. “Barbie and the Three Bears” led by Sir John Campbell and including Sir Mark Nelson was in second place with 16 points. “Strike Force” led by Sir Phil Bartels was in seventh place with 14 ½ points, and “Laurel and Hardies” led by Sir Don McCorquodale had 13 points. Total point spread between high team and low team was 10 points, so competition is very close and keen. If you would like to be a substitute bowler, please let me know. **Presently, we have three vacancies among the twelve teams.**

Dave Harrison, Bowling Chair
harrisod@sonic.net

Windsor Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Grove

The official event dates are December 4th to December 31st 2025

The theme will be “Enhancing senior men’s lives through fun activities”.

The decorating time for us will be **Monday December 1st at 3pm.** Our tree is located at A206. This is to the right of Arbor stage as you face it. (email Mark if you want a pdf map) Members may bring decorations consistent with our theme (activities).

If you have questions or want to help, please contact Mark at:

<mailto:mnelson@santarosa.edu>

See you at 3pm on Dec. 1, Spot A206. Please mark your calendars.

Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan



Bocce Ball at the Senior’s Center Thursdays at 10:00am. All are welcome.

Did you know that George Washington had a court at Mount Vernon in the 1780s?

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:



The Activities Committee made up of members Wayne Lindahl (photo above), Chris Roach, Dave Harrison and Phil Bartels are looking for ideas. This group will have the responsibility of checking with our members for the level of interest in the new activity, identify the local resources available for that activity and if there is a member willing to step up and chair the activity.

Here are some of the activities that other SIRs groups participate in;

- Bridge
- Computers
- Genealogy
- Hiking
- Investments
- Ping Pong

If you have an idea or want to start an activity, please contact any of these committee members.

Wayne: wlindahl@sonic.net

Chris: chrisroach@sbcglobal.net

Phillip: pcbartels@aol.com

Dave: harrisod@sonic.net

ROOSTER GARDEN GUYS



Harvest is complete (unless our peas start producing) As you know some vegetables were given to SIR members and the rest to our senior community. Hopefully, next spring we will once again be involved with the Senior Center, planting new crops.

LIKE TO PLAY POOL, DARTS, SHUFFLEBOARD?

Game time is every Tuesday from 3pm to 5pm.



Most of us aren't very good at pool playing, but all have a great time. However, they have changed the price. For us seniors it's \$6.00 per hour, so still not a bad buck for the bang; Or if you just want to sit back, have a cold one and enjoy the conversation, that's good too...or play one of their other games. So join us at Racks-N-Cue, 8928 Lakewood Drive Windsor.

3PM Friday Happy Hour



If you are free, come and enjoy a cold beverage and lively conversation and so-so jokes. **The schedule for December is:** 12/5: Publican; 12/12: Barley & Bine; 12/19: Lupe's; 12/26: CuVer's (if open).

SPECIAL PROFILE: JOHN COOKUS:



John Cookus

You might say that John Cookus is a fountain of youthful enthusiasm. Known for his boundless energy, optimism and zest for life, he is admired for his vitality, positive outlook, and ability to inspire others, whether by staying active, engaging with friends, or embracing new experiences. He lives by mottos that reflect his outlook, such as *“Keep moving forward”* and *“Life begins with liking yourself.”*

Born in Hagerstown, Maryland, he earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Northwestern University and a master’s degree in psychology from Governors State in Illinois, foundations that shaped his thoughtful and people-centered approach to life.

John’s peers admire his positivity and drive, and he’s a reminder that age is no barrier to staying active and curious. His infectious enthusiasm encourages others to embrace life with the same vigor.

John built a distinguished career as Corporate Director of Human Resources for Bell & Howell, a Fortune 500 company. His passion for athletics began early with wrestling and cross-country running in high school, later expanding to martial arts. He proudly earned a brown belt in karate while living in the Philippines – a journey reminiscent of the Karate Kid’s!

For over forty years, John has shared life with his wife Connie, the “love of his life.” Together they raised two daughters: one retired as a brigadier general in the Air Force, and the other owns a gym and has blessed John with many grandchildren. It’s clear that family is at the heart of his joy.

John’s philosophy of living shines through in the mottos he carries with him: *“Have 100% intention in all of your endeavors but zero addiction to results,”*

and *“Always attempt to achieve an attitude of gratitude.”* These guiding principles are his playbook for life.

TRAVEL FROM STATE SIR:

Australia/New Zealand Jan 7, - Jan 25, '26. Australia: Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney Arrowtown, Queenstown, Rotorua, Auckland. New Zealand : Te Anau. Starting from \$6,495 including air. Free Single Supplement. Pre-trip 5 nights to Melbourn & the Outback from \$2,395. Post trip 4 nights to Fiji from \$1,995 SIR Group Code is G5-30339. Contact Glenn Breslin glennbreslin@gmail.com Branch 146 for more information. Or call direct 1-800-955-1925 Be sure to use the SIR Group Code. LINK: Australia & New Zealand | Grand Circle Travel

Cuba – March 12- 2026. It is legal to travel once again, open the a link and check it out, if interested contact Glenn Breslin glennbreslin@gmail.com ASAP as he is putting an online Q&A together. LINK: Cultural Cuba Experience | Mayflower Cruises and Tours

South Korea & Japan: Temples, Shrines & Seaside Treasures. Korea: Seoul, Japan: Tokyo, Toba, Kyoto. April 1 - April 26, '26. Starting from \$7,495 including air. Pre-trip Mongolia: Ulaanbaater & the Gobi Desert. 9 nights from \$1,495. OR...Vietnam: Hanoi & Halong Bay Cruise 5 nights from \$1,495. SIR Group Code G5-30339 For more information contact Glenn Breslin glennbreslin@gmail.com Branch 146. LINK: South Korea and Japan | Travel to East Asia | Overseas Adventure Travel

Explore the Great Lakes and Niagara Falls, May 3-11, 2026: From urban skylines to uninhabited islands, discover North America's wilderness alongside renowned cultural attractions aboard a small expedition ship. 378 passengers. Led by experts. Balcony staterooms \$6170-8295pp. Contact Michael & Kathi Gervais Br. 98. Kathig@shipsandtripstravel.com 916-337-1623. LINK: Great Lakes and Niagara Falls on the Viking Octantis

Christmas on the Danube with a 2 day Christmas Markets of Prague extension. Nov. 27-Dec. 8, 2026

Six night Danube River Cruise including Christmas Markets in Vienna, Wurzburg, Rothenburg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Wachau Valley, Gluhwein Party. Pricing: \$5896-\$7497 pp, double occupancy. Contact: Bill Britton Br. 101 bill.britton@comcast.net (925) 200-1062. LINK: Christmas on the Danube | Collette

NON-SIR EVENTS:



Once a month (date varies) all SIR and their spouse (SIR+) are welcome to start the “work” week with Mexican Monday – a chance for SIR couples to gather. Starts sharply at 4PM Castaneda’s Market Place. This month **22 December** is Mexican Monday. The frozen margarita machine is now making frozen horchata -- a refreshing non-alcoholic beverage popular in Mexico and Latin America made from white rice, water, cinnamon, and sugar; two sizes large \$7 and small \$5.



Every Saturday morning starting at 8AM Jose Castaneda serves a free breakfast for veterans, i.e. “Castañeda’s Breakfast Brigade,” he provides veterans a place for connections, camaraderie & friendship.

FOR THE LIGHT HEARTED:

My girlfriend left a note on the fridge:

"It's not working. I can't take it anymore. I am going to my Mom's place."

I opened the fridge. The light came on. The beer was cold... What the hell is she talking about?

The wife said:
"Here's \$20, get the dog a jacket."

If there's any money left over, get yourself a beer!



2025 SIR Branch 176 Officers:					
Big SIR Thomas Palmer 619-920-9175		Little SIR Steve De La Montanya		Secretary Dave Harrison 707-838-8155	
Assistant Secretary Larry Doherty 707-484-5308		Treasurer Garry Trojanowski 203-988-5366		Assistant Treasurer Howard Blethen	
2025 Directors					
<i>1 Year Term</i>			<i>2 Year Term</i>		
Chris Roach	Wayne Lindahl	Ward Thompson	Jerry Culver	Ron Nordstrom	Jim Tubb
2025 Activity Coordinator					
Pool-Game Time Bob Wallace 707-849-2345	ATTENDANCE Ron Nordstrom 707-338-6363	MEMBERSHIP Larry Doherty 707-484-5308		FRIENDSHIP Chris Roach (707) 490-8510	
TRAVEL Stewart Morgan 707-545-4957	GOLF Frank Treanor 707-322-7217	BOWLING Dave Harrison 707-638-8155		COFFEE CLUB John Fineren 707-838-3686	
COUPLES DINNER Jim Vick 281-382-4796	BOCCE BALL Stewart Morgan 707-545-4957	RECRUITMENT Gary Jensen 707-337-8380		GREETER John Fineren 707-838-3686	
SONG LEADER Tom Hasco 707-544-4445	NEWSLETTER Tom Palmer 619-920-9175	WEB PAGE Jim Tubb 707-4847890		COFFEE COORDINATOR John Fineren 707-838-3686	
SIR State President Rich Carlston			SIR Area 13 Representative Chris Nelle 916-205-1717		

